

August 19, 1964

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 8/24/13

MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE AND PAGUATE MINES
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION
VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

by
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION

On August 11, 1964, the Jackpile and Paguate mines were examined. The mines are located about 8.5 miles north of the Laguna Pueblo on U. S. Highway 66. The Anaconda Company holds tribal leases and have operated the Jackpile mine since 1952, and the Paguate mine since 1961. The last examination of the mines by engineers from this office was on April 16, 1964.

~~Since date of last inspection production has continued from both~~
minas. Stripping of the Paguate mine continued but was at a lower rate since May 1964. About 100,000 to 130,000 tons of waste per month was removed from the Paguate mine. As the ore occurs as flat lenses, selective mining is necessary. The ore is loaded into trucks, sent through the scanner to determine the grade then put into one of the stockpiles according to the uranium content.

At the Jackpile mine mining was still being carried on in the bottom of the pit. A D-9 Caterpillar tractor equipped with ripper teeth was used to loosen the ore. The tractor, also equipped with a blade, then pushed the ore into piles where a 3/4-yard shovel loaded the ore into 20-ton trucks. This ore is put directly into a stockpile without scanning as experience and random probe holes have shown a consistant grade of about 0.50 U₃O₈ a ton.

On August 9, 1964, a heavy rain and run off in the area caused a 17-foot culvert to be washed out on the haulage road connecting the rail loading point and the Paguate pit and stockpile area.



Because of this all ore sent to the Blue Water concentrator was from the Jackpile stockpiles.

About 35,000 tons of ore a month has been sent to the mill since date of last inspection.

The mine is operated one shift per day 5 days a week, except for maintenance crews that are on a 7 day week. A total of 63 hourly employees and 6 supervisors are employed at the mine.

No safety violation or violations of the lease terms were noted during the examination.

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Orig. to: Supt, United Pueblo, Albuquerque
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